

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06551 160634Z

20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 SAB-01 /069 W

----- 124378

P R 151608Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8588

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL JERUSAEML

DIA WASHDC

USCINCERU VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6551

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS

SUBJECT: DEATH OF SYRIN SHEPHERDS ON GOLAN

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 3989, (B) DAO 1910 DTD 151130Z COT 75

1. CONCERNING INCIDENT REFERRED TO IN REFTELS, IN WHICH TWO SYRIAN SHEPHERDS WERE KILLED BY IDF FIR, IDF HAS TRANSMITTED FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO UN HEADQUARTERS: BEGIN QUOTE( FROM GOI PRESS OFFICE ENGLISH TRANSLATION): IN THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT IN WHICH TWO SYRIAN SHEPHERDS WERE HIT, IT WAS ESTABLISHED THAT THE SHEPHERDS HAD PENETRATED FROM SYRIAN TERRITORY NORTH OF KUNEITRA INTO ISRAEL-HELD TERRITORY. AN IDF PATROL CALLED TO THE INFILTRATORS TO LEAVE THE AREA WHEN THE LATTER DID NOT HEED THE PATROLS CALLS AND IGNORED THE SHOTS FIRED INTO THE AIR, THE PATROL AIMED INTIMIDATING FIRE NEAR THE SHEPHERDS, BY WHICH THE TWO SHEPHERDS WERE HIT AND KILLED. END QUOTE.

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2. ORIGINAL STATEMENTS PHONED TO DAO BY IDF INCLUDED FOLLOWING: " AN IDF PATROL CALLED TO THEM TO LEAVE THE AREEA." DAO LATTER ASKED IDF FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICE( FLO) ABOUT SUBSEQUENT USE OF TERM " INFILTRATORS" IN STATEMENT AS RELEASED TO PUBLIC. FLO WAS EAGER TO POINT OUT THAT ORIGINAL HEBREW VERSION OF IDF ANNOUNCEMENT REFERRED TO VICTIMS THROUGHOUT AS " SHEPHERDS" RATHER THAN" INFILTRATORS."

3. COMMENT: ACTING DATT BELIVES, AND WE CONCUR, THAT SOME PATROL LEADER WILL PAY A HEAVY PRICE OFR THIS EMBARRASSING AND ESPECIALLY ILL-TIMED INCIDENT. ITS OCCURRENCE UNDER-SCORES EFFECTS OF PARTICULARLY HEAVY LOSSES IN NCO AND JUNIOR OFFICER RANKS DURING OCTOBER 1973 WAR, RESULTING IN CONTINUING DEFICIENCIES IN IDF SMALL-UNIT LEADERSHIP.

4. WHETHER OR NOT INITIAL HEBREW REPORT REFERRED TO " INFILTRATORS," WE FIND IT ENCOURAGING THAT IDF IS ANXIOUS TO EXPUNGE THAT TERM FROM RECORD OF INCIDENT. ISRAEL OBVIOUSLY HAS NO INTEREST IN ADDING IMPLICIT ACCUSATION OF SYRIAN VIOLATION OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT TO SITUATION WHICH, HOWEVER, UNFORTUNATE, CAN PROBABLY BE TRACED TO TRIGGER-HAPPY INDIVIDUAL.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MURDER, ALLEGATIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 DAMASCUS 3989  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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06 JUL 2006

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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEATH OF SYRIN SHEPHERDS ON GOLAN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006